

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 111827Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8600

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 03082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS" EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: ADVICE BY EC COMMISSIONER THOMSON ON RENEGO-
TIATING THE TERMS OF ENTRY

BEGIN SUMMARY IN A SPEECH AT YORK UNIVERSITY ON MARCH
8, EC COMMISSIONER GEORGE THOMSON URGED THE NEW BRITISH
GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONAL
FRAMEWORK TO CHANGE EC POLICIES INSTEAD OF TRYING TO
RENEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION.
THOMSON'S REMARKS HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED OBLIQUELY
BY FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, AND MORE DIRECTLY BY
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BACKBENCH LABOUR MPS. END SUMMARY

1. THOMSON SAID IN HIS SPEECH AT YORK THAT AN ATTEMPT TO RENEGOTIATE THE ACCESSION TREATY WILL RUN INTO "FORMIDABLE JURIDICAL OBSTACLES AND LOSE COMMUNITY SUPPORT." IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT TRIES TO CHANGE EC POLICIES FROM WITHIN, "THERE WILL BE A CHANCE OF WINING ALLIES AND MAKING PROGRESS." A "SERIOUS REAPPRAISAL" OF THE COMMUNITY OF NINE WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY NECESSARY IN ANY EVENT, ACCORDING TO THOMSON, AND THE COMING INTO OFFICE OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT COULD, IN A PARADOXICAL WAY, ACT AS A "CONSTRUCTIVE CATALYST" TO BRING ABOUT THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN EC POLICIES.

2. IN A SPEECH TO LABOUR PARTY SUPPORTERS ON MARCH 9, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN SAID THAT NO ADVICE -- HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED -- WILL DETER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM AN IMMEDIATE AND FUNDAMENTAL RENEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS OF ENTRY. SOME BACKBENCH LABOUR MPS URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST TO THE COMMISSION AGAINST THOMSON'S "GROSS INTERFERENCE" IN BRITISH INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND TO TRY TO GET THOMSON DISMISSED FROM OFFICE.

3. WE ARE FORWARDING A COPY OF THOMSON'S SPEECH BY AIRGRAM TO USEC AND TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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Message Attributes

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